(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken to resolve their problems and to make their colonies liveable; and

(d) the steps taken to prevent the unauthorised colonies and jhuggis from coming up?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (c) Some of the Residents Welfare Associations who had represented against encroachment of public lands by slum dwellers in their vicinity had met the Minister of Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation on 29.7.2000 and have given photographs as well as representations regarding insanitary, unhygienic conditiosn in their colonies due to presence of slums. The problems highlighted by most of the participants were of law and order, eve-teasing, clogging of drains creation of pollution and dirt, blockade of roads and passages, cutting up of trees and bushes and general hygiene. They also submitted that due to the presence of such clusters in their colony/area their right of way and freedom to live freely had been curtailed. The Government has taken note of these representations and relocating of slums is already in hand and a special drive for the purpose has been launched by the Government.

Civic amenities like water supply, street lighting, road, storm water drains, etc. are provided in JJ clusters.

(d) The Govenment have been impressing upon land owning agencies to protect their lands and to not allow encroachments.

Panel Discussion on Demolition and Development in Delhi

3097. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a panel discussion on demolition and development (Delhi), it was expressed that from the architect's perspective Delhi should have planned ring railway as the spine of the city with radical roads emanating from it and stringent measures are needed to check further unauthorised contructions;

(b) whether the problem of law violators is also to be tackled alongwith unauthorised constructions; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken to bring the lawbreakers to the book alongwith concerned officials and to ensure that unauthorised constructions do not take place in its very initial stage?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (c) Panel discussion being referred to is not clear. However, strengthening of ring railway corridor was envisaged as a part of Mass Rapid Transport System for Delhi which was not part of Phase-I. In so far as unauthorised constructions are concerned, Government has issued

instructions to all local bodies/concerned agencies for taking strict action against defaulters as per the relevant laws.

Legislation to organise State Housing Boards

3098. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have plans for enacting special legislations to organise the State Housing Boards and strengthen the Cooperative Housing Movement in the country;

(b) if so, what are its broad features and by when such enactments would be made effective;

(c) whether Government would ensure that the requirement of one dwelling unit for a family, which is one of the basic ingredient of "Roti, Kapda Aur Makan" would be taken care of, so that even a poor can enjoy the civic environment and amenities; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRYA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government, as an enabler is considering the need to reorganise the housing agencies in the country and also the need for new Housing Board Acts. The proposed Acts should combine the advantages that are available to a corporatised body such as flexibility and speed in decision making, with the advantages that are inherent in the agency enjoying sovereign powers of the State, such as land acquisition and recovery of the dues as area of land revenue. As the proposed Act will be within the purview of States. Government of India will play a facilitating role only. It may not be possible to provide a time frame for the enactment of the proposed Act.

(c) and (d) The National Housing and Habitat Policy 1998, envisages provision of shelter and basic amenities to all through increased supply of developed land, promotion of cost-effective building materials, fiscal concessions for investment in housing, removal of legal / regulatory constraints and easier access to housing finance. The National Agenda for Governance envisages construction of an additional 2 million dwelling units primarily for weaker section every year. Out of this, 7 lakh units will be in urban areas and rest 13 lakh in rural Areas. Since housing is a State Subject, actual implementation of the plan lies with the State Governments.

Participation of NRIs in Housing Sector

3099. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Non-Resident Indians have been allowed to enter into housing sector in the country;